

Approved For Release 2002/09/03 : CIA-RDP78-04908A000100050009-7

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PROJECT OUTLINE

28 May 1956

Project Subject	:	Mechanical Translation	25X1A9A
Originating Office	:	Office of the Deputy Director (Intelligence)	
Project Officer	:	<input type="text"/>	
Target Area	:	Not applicable	
Type of Project	:	Research and Development	25X1A5A1
Financial Mechanism	:	Transfer of funds to <input type="text"/>	
Funds Requested	:	\$65,000 in FY 1956 \$35,000 to be appropriated <input type="text"/>	
Current Status	:	New	25X1A5A1

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1. Objective: The volume of material in the Russian language which must be translated or read for intelligence purposes is increasing so rapidly that at present it is virtually impossible to keep even with the receipts in intelligence exploitation. A mechanical translation capability will increase the speed with which Russian language documents can be translated or put into the hands of intelligence analysts for evaluation. The objective of this project is the accomplishment of some of the fundamental linguistic research necessary to development of a machine translation capability.

2. Origin and Policy Guidance:

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a. Origin: The project originated as a result of an exchange of correspondence and discussions between the [redacted] and the DCI and DDCI, as well as an exchange of correspondence between the DCI and the Director, [redacted] (Tab A)

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b. Whence Proposed: Headquarters.

3. Situation: The practical utilization of recorded knowledge for intelligence purposes or any other purpose often requires the translation of that knowledge from one language to another. The volume of recorded knowledge available in the U.S. in the Russian language has increased by a factor of two in the past year. The sifting of this information for facts of intelligence value has become a major problem. Linguists having the substantive capability to read and analyze Russian scientific literature without translation in the usual sense are few and difficult to obtain. Only seldom does a scientist wish to take the time to learn the Russian language so that he may deal directly with the substance of the literature without translation. Similarly, it is impractical to make an expert chemist out of a first-rate linguist. Furthermore, there are many more scientists than linguists. If a machine capability for translation were developed, English versions of technical papers could be available to intelligence analysts and scientists for evaluation promptly after publication. The USSR Academy of Sciences has recognized the importance of machine translation to the improvement of Russian science and has encouraged the linguistic and machine research necessary to the development of a mechanical translation device. Recent articles (Pravda, 22 January 1956; Oesterreichisch Volksstimme, 5 February 1956) have revealed substantial progress in the Soviet Union. It has been recognized by the Russian researchers that the major research required is not electronic but linguistic.

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b. Proposal: It is proposed to contract with [redacted]

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[redacted] to undertake intensive research focused primarily on the linguistic aspects of mechanical translation, working principally from Russian into English. A lexicon of Russian terminology in organic chemistry and the coding of appropriate syntactic rules will be developed.

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e. Personnel disposal: Not applicable

f. Disaster Plan: Not applicable.

7. Coordination:

a. Relation to other projects: No other project is known which relates directly to this proposal. Research going on elsewhere in the U.S. is of the basic linguistic type and not directed toward a machine capability to translate Russian technical literature into English.

b. Significance within over-all program in the area: Not applicable.

c. Extent of Coordination: Internal CIA coordination has been accomplished with the Management Staff, the Foreign Documents Division, the Office of Scientific Intelligence and the Office of Central Reference. Intra-Government coordination has been accomplished in the Social Science Research Group. Written statements from all interested Government agencies indicate interest in the project, and no duplication of effort exists. Extra-Government coordination will be accomplished by [redacted]
[redacted]

8. Control:

a. Nature of: Control of the project will be accomplished through the Monitoring Committee.

b. Administrative Plan: Administration of the proposal has been accepted by [redacted]

c. Reports: The Monitoring Committee is to meet at least every three months to prepare a status report. Financial reports will be furnished by the [redacted] upon request at the end of the project.

9. Budget Data:

a. Total over-all CIA funds required for Fiscal Year 1956: \$65,000. (Budget attached as Tab B)

b. Availability of CIA funds required: Funds are available within the DD/I unallotted reserve for Fiscal Year 1956.

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c. Non-CIA funds: \$35,000 from [redacted]

d. Foreign Currency: Not applicable.

e. Funding: Funds will be released from the DD/I unallotted reserve and transferred to [redacted] upon receipt of a Voucher for Transfer Between Appropriations and/or Funds (Form No. 1080). This transfer will be accomplished by 30 June 1956.

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f. Financial History: Not applicable.

g. Future Requirements: Future financial support will be determined on the basis of experience in the project.

10. Support Data:

a. Total CIA Personnel: One -- the member of the Monitoring Committee.

b. Training: Not applicable.

c. Materiel: Not applicable.

d. Communications: Not applicable.

e. Other CIA Support: Not applicable.

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11. General Considerations:

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a. Current Status: New

b. Commitments: See correspondence between DCI and Director,
[redacted] Tab A.

c. Effectiveness: Not applicable.

d. Anticipated Results: See paragraph 4 above.

e. Evaluation: The progress will be evaluated by the Monitoring Committee.

f. Policy questions: None

g. Congress: Not applicable.

h. Extra-Agency action: [redacted] will finance approximately one-third of the project. 25X1A5A1

i. Proprietary Companies: Not applicable.

j. Special Considerations: None

k. Liquidation: By completion of project, contract will be fulfilled.

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